

I. Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [010] with the following amended paragraph:

[010] This invention provides such an improved device by replacing the typically-used wire with a braided element ~~than that~~ can be sewn to the base, entirely eliminating the need for an appropriately-sized channel into which the metallic wire is inserted. The braided element can be composed of individual strands of any sufficiently conductive material, such as metal wire. The strands could also include some conductive and some non-conductive strands. The individual strands can be of any appropriate cross-sectional design, such as round, square, oblong or flat. The base can be of any non-conductive material, and is preferably PVC or other elastomeric material that is, in addition to being an insulator, UV resistant and extremely flexible. The size and spacing of the braided element and the size and configuration of the base can be designed for whatever animal, pest or bird is to be deterred.

Please replace paragraph [016] with the following amended paragraph:

[016] Figure 4 is a top view of the preferred embodiment of this invention. The dotted line extending down the middle of each of the braided element represents the stitching of the sewn attachment means and can also represent spaced apart staples if staples are used as the attachment means. The spaced-apart holes in the center of the base that can be used for attaching the base to the desired surface area are also shown.

Please replace paragraph [018] with the following amended paragraph:

[018] Figure 6 shows the preferred embodiment (absent the sewn stitching as it would appear if spot gluing or heat welding were used to adhere the braid to the base) in which the top side of the device is being bent in a concave fashion. Although this Figure shows a very significant curvature, the device of this invention is actually capable of being bent much more severely without adversely affecting the attachment between the conductive braided elements and the non-conductive base.

Please replace paragraph [020] with the following amended paragraph:

[020] Figure 8 shows the preferred embodiment (absent the sewn stitching) in which the top side of the device is being bent in a convex fashion. Although this ~~Figures~~ ~~Figure~~ shows a very significant curvature, the device of this invention is actually capable of being bent much more severely without adversely affecting the attachment between the conductive braided elements and the non-conductive base.

Please replace paragraph [021] with the following amended paragraph:

[021] Figure 9 is an isolated, ~~enlarge enlarged~~ view taken from circle-[7] 9 in Fig. [9] 8, and shows that in convex flex, the compression stress placed on the braided elements is absorbed by the individual strands expanding apart from one another, and the overall width of the braided ~~element~~ elements becoming larger.

Please replace paragraph [030] with the following amended paragraph:

[030] The preferred means for attaching the braided elements **12a** and **12b** to the base **10** is by sewing. Because the braided elements **12a** and **12b** are composed of multiple strands **32** somewhat loosely woven together rather than the single copper wire used in most prior art devices, there is sufficient free space **34** between the adjacent strands **32** such that the sewing operation never has to pierce, and preferably does not pierce, any of the strands **34**. Rather, the sewing operation creates a secure mechanical lock as the thread used to sew bridges across the individual strands. While any suitably durable and strong thread can be used in the sewing operation, 100% polyester Star Ultra® Monocord from Coats, North American (www.coatcna.com) has proven suitable. A single line of stitching **36** down the longitudinal center of each braided element **12a** and **12b** (best seen in Figure 5) has proven sufficient, although many other sewing stitches, styles and placement would work as well. As shown in Figure 4, the spaced apart lines 36 could also represent staples, if that is the preferred attachment means.